

This week's community profile: Egg Harbor



Stocking shelves: Marion Soukup stacks canned goods at the Main Street Market. An Egg Harbor

native, she returned to her roots from the Chicago area 2½ years ago after she retired.

Tourists often become residents

By Karil Van Boxel

Press-Gazette

EGG HARBOR — Tourists don't just drive through here anymore.

They stop and shop and stay.

Even winter can't shut down this village on the bluff overlooking Green Bay. It just offers a more tranquil view of Egg Harbor.

History? It's got it.

In 1871, Levi Thorp built the Cupola

House where

**Press-Gazette photos
by Sandee Gerbers**

he could

watch his steamboats being loaded from the widow's walk.

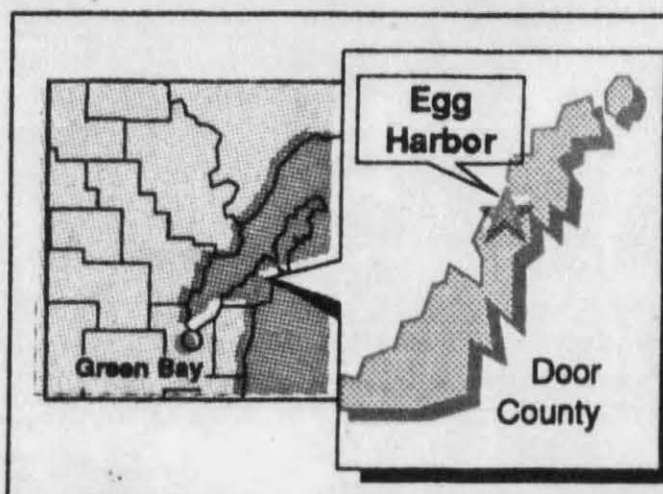
Today, Gloria Hansen watches workmen restore the Thorp house that she and husband, Richard, bought 10 years ago. The insulation, thermopane windows and new cedar siding will allow the entire building with its gallery and crafts to remain open next year until after Christmas.

"We're just kind of custodians," she says. "I'm glad young people can see an example of fine, old Italian gothic homes."

Looking for fun? It doesn't end when the beach, boat dock, marina, stable and golf course close.

Upcoming is the New Year's Day parade, a growing event for at least 15 years. It started with a local resident bored with TV football bowls who rode his horse through downtown and called it a parade.

Since then, grocery carts, a kazoo band and even a snow float have been added. "People just come to see how crazy it is," says Char Mueller, whose husband, Herb, owns the only gas station.



The Egg Harbor file

- **Population:** 185 year round
- **In a name:** A flotilla supposedly carrying Henry S. Baird and his bride in 1825 was sailing into the harbor when the crews began throwing eggs at each other.
- **Double life:** Winter offers a breather to residents and seasonal business operators who don't have time to enjoy the village in summer.

Michael Dziuba, 47, owner of the Harbor Point Inn on Wisconsin 42, says the 1 p.m. parade may take 5 minutes. Then his restaurant and bar, built about 1847 as the Kewaunee House, will be busy.

Dziuba, who has been chili cook, bartender and floor scrubber since he bought the former Blue Iris in July, came to Door County from Milwaukee by way of Green Bay. "This is home," he says. "I'm not going back."

Marion Soukup, 62, left Egg Harbor after high school and lived in a Chicago suburb until she returned permanently 2½ years ago. The mother of five joined clubs to meet people, but learned everyone works during the summer.

Now she checks out groceries and stocks shelves at the Main Street Market. "I came back just 'cause I love it up here," she says.

Life continues in Egg Harbor after the quaint or chic seasonal shops, Chief Oshkosh Trading Post and campgrounds close for winter.

The Main Street Market, 7770 Highway 42, is among businesses open year round. Built in autumn 1987, the store owned by Dave Callsen, 52, and his wife,

LaVonne, expanded in May.

Bill Bertschinger's father, Paul, a Milwaukee butcher, and his uncle, John, built the Alpine Lodge and Resort in 1921. It boasts the county's only 27-hole golf course.

A native who has been on the Village Board since 1964, Bertschinger, 64, said he never grew up: He still likes a nice boat and cross-country skiing.

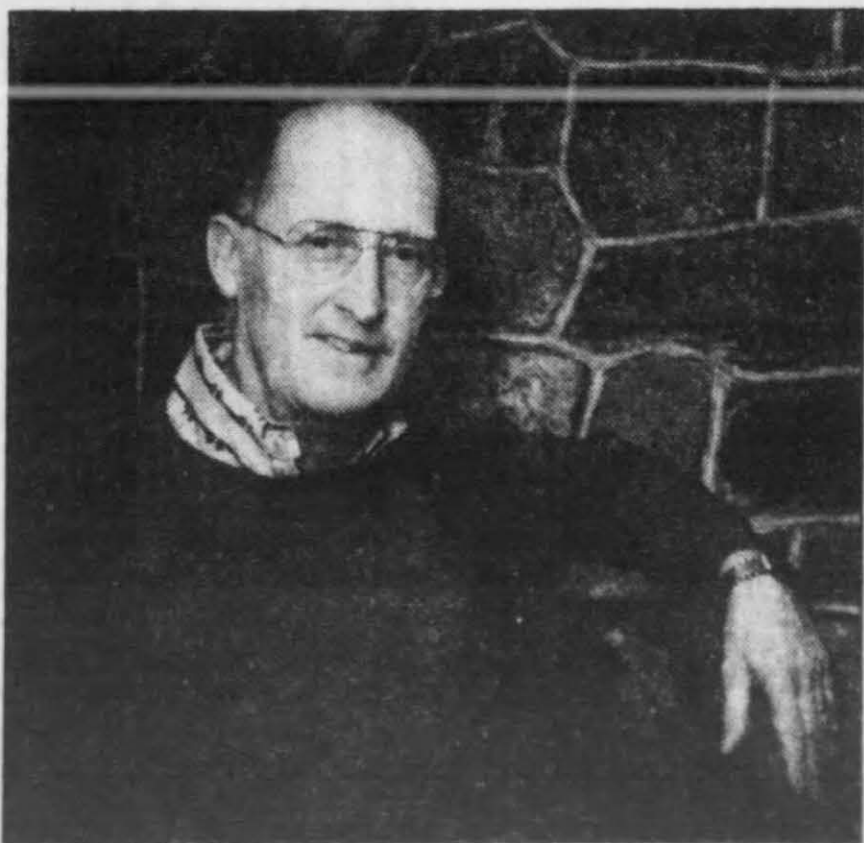
A community center named for his father with a post office and library was built six years ago. Buildings were fixed up, new shops went in, plantings, street lights and sidewalks were added to make it a walk-around community.

"We oldtimers liked Egg Harbor the way it was, but that was not realistic," Bertschinger said. "We're pleased, we're proud that people are moving in."

Stacy Bridenhagen, 33, is among them. She and husband, Fred, own the Door County Poster Co. in Ephraim, Sister Bay and now here.

"If you don't have a shop in Egg Harbor you may be missing the boat," she says.

■ **Next week:** Humboldt in Brown County



Work break: Bill Bertschinger poses by the natural stone fireplace at his winter office.



Bite to eat: Michael Dziuba serves home cookin' to some hungry Illinois patrons at his Harbor Point Inn.